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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : H. Sharkey and G. Fanton
Serial No. : 08/714,987
Filed : September 17, 1996
Title : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTROLLED CONTRACTION OF SOFT TISSUE

Art Unit : 3739
Examiner : David M. Shay

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED
JAN 29 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

RESPONSE

In response to the action mailed October 30, 2002, please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

51 74. (Amended) An apparatus comprising:

an energy delivery device including a proximal portion and a distal portion, the energy delivery device being configured to deliver sufficient energy to a selected site to effect a contraction in at least a portion of collagen containing tissue at the selected site, the distal portion including a thermally conductive material; and

a sensor embedded within the thermally conductive material by surrounding the sensor with thermally conductive material, the sensor for detecting a thermal energy from the selected site and from an adjacent fluid medium, the sensor producing a thermal feedback signal which represents a composite of the thermal energy detected from the selected site of the collagen containing tissue and from the fluid medium, the energy delivery device including circuitry for supplying the thermal feedback signal to a feedback control system for adjusting a level of energy delivered by the energy delivery device to at least the portion of the selected site of the collagen containing tissue.

52 77. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 74, wherein the thermally conductive material that surrounds the sensor extends from a distal tip of the energy delivery device to a position proximal to the sensor.